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# Torrance Herald

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THIRTEENTH YEAR—No. 34. PUBLISHED WEEKLY TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1927 EVERY THURSDAY 5c per Copy

## COUNCIL DEFERS TAX RATE ACTION

### Traction Case Sets Decision Precedent

I. C. C. Action in Central California May Apply to Local Problems

A precedent which may prove of vast importance in connection with the railway freight interchange problems of this community and of Southern California has been set in a recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the Central California Traction Company case.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has directed that the 53-mile railroad, from Stockton to Sacramento, be taken over and operated jointly by the Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific. The Central California Traction Company connects with the Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific, a situation analogous to that prevailing in Southern California in regard to the Pacific Electric and the steam railroads. In transportation circles the decision is regarded as a legal landmark which the commission may see fit to use in charting a course through the interchange shoals in Southern California.

Action in Southern California paralleling the Central California Traction case would call for joint operation of the 1100-mile, \$100,000,000 system of the Pacific Electric by the Santa Fe, Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Pacific Electric. It has been forecast that the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce may take cognizance of such a solution, which would simplify the problem of location of joint classification yards, would eliminate duplication in transportation service now found in several communities where no interchange arrangement exists, would dissolve the dispute between carriers over switching charges, would effect a saving to shippers by making possible a single-line haul, and would be in line with the Congressional plan for consolidation of railroads.

The Pacific Electric is owned by the Southern Pacific, but the Southern Pacific up to the present time has declined to operate it and maintain it.

In some quarters it has been forecast that such joint operation of the Pacific Electric probably would lead to electrification of the mileage of the Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific in Southern California.

### Oil Men Take Precautions In Reported Plot

Sheriff Hears of Bomb Plans in Santa Fe Springs—Guards Increased

Precautions have been taken for the past few days to guard against a rumored plot at the Santa Fe Springs oil field and at the Richfield Refinery in North Long Beach as a result of the Sacco-Vanzetti executions Monday night.

The sheriff's office in Los Angeles received reports that secret agents working in Huntington Park had learned of a plot to bomb Santa Fe Springs. Scores of deputy sheriffs and extra guards were thrown about the oil fields and refineries.

Union, California Petroleum, General Petroleum, Standard, Shell and Associated Oil companies all were notified of the reported plot and all put on extra shifts of guards.

A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

**BILL THE BARBER SAYS**  
A LOT OF PEOPLE MISTAKE LUCK FOR LUCK.



### Smoker Minus Smoke Success at Playground

Red Hot Glove Battles Are Put On—Big Crowd Present

The "smokeless" smoker and athletic program of boxing, wrestling, games and stunts last Friday night in the Playground playroom was a great success, both in attendance and sheer fun.

A large crowd, composed chiefly of youngsters, but with a liberal sprinkling of older folks, was on hand to witness and take part in the amusement.

Some fast and furious boxing was on tap. Lester Moore and Vashel Moore of Indianapolis put on a special bout in the middleweight division and they went at it hammer and tongs in true brotherly fashion, with Lester having the edge.

Donald Dover took the decision over Cecil Powell in a shower of gloves in the lightweight class. Louis Zamperini had all the best of it in a slashing battle at catch weights with Frank Watanabe. Francis Dover also gave Horace Watanabe a tacing in three rounds.

Both of the Watanabe boys gave away too much in weight, height and reach to have an equal chance, but both showed worlds of fight and were glutted for punishment.

In the main event, Heide Watanabe won over "Spider" Tidlow in the first round. Heide was too fast and experienced and the bout was stopped after a couple of knock downs to avoid a knockout.

Jimmy Miller won his wrestling match with Louis Zamperini in a whirlwind match during which every hold was tried out. Cecil Powell downed brother David Powell in another family affair which brought the audience to its feet.

The most interesting and amusing wrestling match of the evening was just another little family argument between Joseph and Anthony Brissenger. These boys swarmed over each other and part of the audience like a couple of wildcats and kept the spectators in an uproar. Anthony finally won the deciding fall.

Indian wrestling was exhibited by several of the boys who performed nobly.

The latter part of the evening was spent in tumbling, pyramid building and games. "Throw and duck," beetle, elephant roll, horse back riding competition and other games and contests rounded up an evening of real enjoyment.

The Gardena Playground baseball team defeated the local team 17-6 last Friday on the local field. Considering the size of the two teams the Torrance boys made a fine showing. Ruppel, Falkner, Tidlow, Zamperini, Singer, Anderson, Holman, Paige, Kelly and Watanabe brothers comprised the local team. Next Friday a return game will be played at Gardena.

Thursday afternoon at three o'clock bicycle races will be held at the playground. These will include slow races, 50 yards, 100 yards and marathon races for boys of different ages and anyone is eligible to compete.

### In a Town Where Values Grow The Taxes Surely Will Be Low

Walt Mason, genial, but not always accurate, rhymester, is taken to task by Edwin M. Searle of 233 North Kenmore, Los Angeles, for a recent "Rippling Rhyme" entitled "Low Taxes."

"For in a town that doesn't grow, 'The Taxes surely would be low, 'And that would soothe my soul.' So said Walt, and Mr. Searle, not particularly interested in towns that do not grow, but nevertheless sharing with the rhyming Mason a liking for low taxes, suffered his eyes to wander on down the rippling column, to learn further:

"I heard about a quiet town, 'Where Taxes kept on going down, 'And I went there to look around, 'Perchance to buy a plot of ground, 'But when I reached the Low Tax Town 'I found it desolate and brown, 'Unpeopled and decayed.' Right there Mr. Searle, who has a few ideas of his own as to what makes a Low Tax town, began to suspect that Walt was telling more poetry than truth. Mr. Mason, it seemed, had allowed his poetic license to wander off the reservation, but Mr. Searle, being a fair-minded man, before publicly condemning Walt's rambling rhyme, clapped his hat upon his head and hid himself to Torrance, to see with his own eyes the aspects of a Low Tax Town. Walt's reputation, if any, for poetic veracity thereupon suffered a decided slump.

"I learned that your city tax has been reduced again," writes Mr. Searle, in an unsolicited report of his private investigation, "and yet it is only half what our city tax is here in Los Angeles. 'I found no signs of desolation or decay in the city of Torrance, but exactly the reverse—a clean and strictly up-to-date city, a fast growing metropolis, an energetic class of people with plenty of pep, school facilities unsurpassed, churches, libraries, hospitals, everything. And now can you explain, how do you do it?'"

"Is it any wonder Torrance is growing so rapidly," Mr. Searle now is contemplating a little good advice to one Walt Mason, namely, that he delve a bit into the basic principles of taxes and assessed valuation.

### Patrolman Has Lively Evening In Carson St. Watchman Stops Brass Theft at C.C.M.O. Camp

Stewart Subdues Troublemakers from San Pedro—Fistful of Combat

Patrolman Stewart had both hands full and to spare last Friday night in Carson street when half a dozen incipient combats broke out as the result of a visit to a dance here of 50 or more San Pedro men and women.

Just what the warfare was all about the patrolman was unable to learn, as the combatants, aided by their companions, all escaped. Outnumbered more than 50 to one, Stewart was unable to make the hand of the law stick for more than a few minutes on any of them.

At least one of the disturbers, however, has good reason to remember his Torrance visit. He collided forcibly with Patrolman Stewart's capable fist in the height of the melee, and was rendered hors de combat on the spot. He was dragged off by companions and whisked away in an automobile while Stewart was busy subduing the other little riots that were raging all around him.

The officer reported several instances of direct interference with his authority, among both men and women. One woman leaped upon him and attempted to trip him up as he charged in to break up a battle.

Chief of Police Calder has taken steps to see that Stewart will have reinforcements immediately on tap if the crowd pays a return visit.

### Observations

A New Regard for Trusts—A Singing Patriot—The Ocotul Incident—Vienna Broke Loose

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

(Republished from The Independent, Boston)

THE public attitude toward industrial combinations and large corporations has changed considerably since Theodore Roosevelt swung his big stick at the trusts. Today finds a growing popular conviction that trusts are bad only when they exercise powers of monopoly to raise prices arbitrarily but that when they effect cost reductions which are passed on to the consumer in the form of reduced prices they become an ally rather than a foe of the people.

In the report on the Geneva Economic Conference this statement appears: "In certain branches of production they (industrial combinations) can—subject to certain conditions and reservations—on the one hand, secure a more methodical organization of production and a reduction in costs. . . and on the other hand, act as a check on uneconomic competition and reduce

(Continued on Page 6)

### Ball Players Prepare For Decisive Battles

Pet. Securities Bump Standard From Leadership

The gods of change took charge of the Oil Field League this week and Standard Oil, with the close of Tuesday night's game with Calpet, which Calpet won, 7 to 6, found itself unceremoniously bumped from the league leadership into a third place berth. Standard had dropped the previous Thursday's game to Petroleum Securities.

The Securities ball tossers, with another win on Tuesday at the expense of Superior, stepped modestly into the top line of the league standings. Tolson dropped one to Calpet, but held its second place rating.

Standard on Skids Petroleum Securities put the skids under Standard Oil Thursday by hopping off to the lead in the first inning with five 18-karat runs. They kept them all to the end, and when the mathematicians were called in the final score found to be 19 to 13, with Standard holding the jinx number.

Home runs flapped about the lot like homing pigeons. Roy Jones and Vern Austin each trotted around the great circle for Standard, after smacking the apple out of the lot, and Jack Canterbury, Ralph Darrow and Ted Dietzel oiled up their bats and barged a circuit clout apiece for Petroleum Securities. Roberts, on the mound for Standard, had lots of stuff on the ball, but at times had a little difficulty in making it behave. Hulsebush was in the box for Petroleum Securities, and delivered a neat ball game.

Another Wallop Standard took its second wallop in a somewhat more argumentative mood Tuesday night. Calpet, going great guns, pushed Standard farther down the column and made it stick, but by the narrow margin of one run. The score was 7 to 6. Tight ball was exhibited by both teams. Calpet cashed in on all seven of its hits, and Standard, with six runs, had six hits behind them also. Warren Scribner of Calpet contributed a home run. West and Campbell comprised the Calpet battery, with Roberts and Sherlock for Standard.

Pet Sec. Again Petroleum Securities fortified its vanguard position Tuesday with a victory over Superior on the Superior diamond. The first two innings were the acme of conservatism, with Petroleum Securities garnering only one run, and Superior none. Securities cut loose in the third with four; added three more in the fifth and another in the sixth, and drove in the clincher with three, full-sized tallies in the ninth.

Superior worked up a temper in the seventh and eighth and tied the score, but it was too late. Hulsebush pitched his usual steady game for Petroleum Securities, and Lewis, who has been regular catcher, received his last. He is leaving for Arizona, and will be missed.

Bolinger and Reynolds handled the Superior delivery, with Dodge receiving. Calpet Knocks Tolson Calpet bowled Tolson over with an 11 to 5 score last Thursday. Scribner and Nelson of Calpet each turned in a four-ply swat, and Scribner did some nifty fielding at third. West hurled a good game for the winners.

Oil Well Supply and Superior failed to reach a decision on the Superior diamond.

### Playground Championship Series

August 29—Pacific Electric vs. Lomita Globe Bakery.  
August 30—Union Tool vs. Tansey Barbers.  
August 31—Pacific Electric vs. Tansey Barbers.  
September 1—Union Tool vs. Pacific Electric.  
September 2—Union Tool vs. Lomita Globe Bakery.

### Playground League Standings

Teams	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Union Tool	8	0	0	1000
Tansey Barbers	3	1	0	750
Pacific Electric	5	2	0	714
Globe Bakery	5	2	0	714
Columbia Steel	2	3	0	400
Bankers	1	4	1	250
Kiwanis	1	5	0	200
Idoco	1	5	1	200
Firemen	1	5	0	200
Rotary	1	6	0	142

### Oil League Standings

Teams	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Petroleum Securities	5	2	0	715
Tolson Truck Co.	4	2	1	667
Standard Oil	3	2	2	600
California Petroleum	4	3	0	572
Oil Well Supply	1	4	2	240
Superior	1	5	1	167

### As Summer Season Draws to Close Championship Contenders at Playground Gird Loins for Final Fray

With the season drawing to its close, a championship playoff series and inter-sectional games are scheduled in the Playground Baseball League for next week. Union Tool, otherwise known as Murphy's Comedians, has eight straight games to its credit and has chalked up a percentage rating of 1.000. Next Thursday evening the toolmakers will tangle in the playoff with Pacific Electric, which, with five won and two lost, has a rating of .714. On Friday the Comedians will take on Globe Bakery of Lomita, also boasting a .714 percentage.

The Tansey Barbers, rating .750 with four games played, are scheduled to meet Union Tool Monday night, in the second game of a double header. In the first Monday game, Pacific Electric and Globe Bakery will try conclusions. Tuesday Pacific Electric will cross bats with the tonsorial artists, and Wednesday the bakers will take a crack at the hair cutters.

Wednesday also will see a double header at the Playground field. The winner of the Wilmington playground series will journey over to try the mettle of a representative team of the Torrance-Lomita Playground. Union Tool probably will step to the front for the local league, or if the toolmen are indisposed, P. E. will fill the breach.

Tonight the San Pedro Lumber company, an upstanding team in the San Pedro league, will appear at the local playground. Union Tool is expected to take it on.

Playground activities will cease next week officially, but ball games will continue into the following week, with winners of the Oil Field League series crossing bats with the Playground League leaders.

Bakers Scorch P. E. The bakery boys kept their frosting intact and allowed but two little nibbles off the outer crust to the near-finished mechanics from the P. E. shops Tuesday night in one of the fastest games yet played in the league. The motor-men wanted a large sized cake with all the trimmings—they got the "trimming." It's only fair to state that P. E. didn't have its strongest line-up and played a good game at that. It fell down woefully, however, in its hitting.

Yelovich and Stanton pitching for the bakery allowed but two hits between them. This is the least number of hits collected by P. E. in any game to date. The doughboys scored two runs in the first, two in the third and one in the seventh while the P. E. scored (Continued on Last Page)

### ANOTHER SESSION FRIDAY

Tax Ordinance Will Be Discussed Further Before Adoption

MAY BE CHANGED If Re-Introduced, Ordinance Will Be Adopted Wednesday

Action on the 1927-1928 tax rate ordinance, which, as introduced on August 16, would make the municipal tax 73 cents for the Old City and 70 cents for the Northwest Torrance and Meadow Park annexations, was deferred by the City Council, in session last Tuesday night, until Friday.

An adjourned meeting of the Council will be held Friday night, at which the tax ordinance will come up for further discussion as special order of business after which, if any changes are made in it, it will be in order for adoption at another special session five days later. If no changes are made in the ordinance it may be adopted Friday night. Incorporation of any changes, however, will require re-introduction of the measure Friday night, and the law requires five days to elapse between the introduction of the ordinance and its adoption.

### CITY AT HEAD OF LONG LIST IN BUILDING

Torrance Leads 22 California Cities in Value of July Permits

In value of building permits issued during July, Torrance leads a list of 22 California cities, with a total of \$78,500 issued. The nearest competitor in this list is Inglewood, with \$75,975. The list follows:

TORRANCE	\$78,500
Inglewood	75,975
Huntington Park	74,480
Ventura	73,040
Fullerton	68,325
San Leandro	50,250
Redwood City	48,322
San Gabriel	45,855
Whittier	45,485
San Rafael	43,582
Anaheim	38,306
Compton	34,475
Modesto	31,900
Coronado	30,927
Monrovia	30,460
Haywards	26,470
Palos Verdes	25,350
Colton	21,000
Emeryville	18,600
National City	18,305
Orange	5,750
Redondo Beach	2,100

Torrance's assessed valuations for the fiscal year 1927-1928 have increased \$4,158,220 over the fiscal year 1926-1927. Reduction of the assessed valuation of the Old City by approximately one million dollars is more than offset by new assessed valuations of \$3,791,990 in the Meadow Park annexation, including in the city's valuations for the fiscal year 1927-1928 for the first time, and an approximate doubling of the assessed valuations of the Northwest Torrance annexation. Northwest Torrance is assessed for 1927-1928 at \$3,030,945, the increase being due chiefly to increase in personal property. The total assessed valuation of Torrance for 1927-1928 is \$16,251,295 against \$12,223,075 for 1926-1927.

The million dollar paring of the assessment in the Old City is regarded in administrative and financial circles as a sane forward step, and is the result of a campaign waged over the past several years to that end. A special Chamber of Commerce committee, headed by J. C. Smith, aided in obtaining the reduction by marshalling many facts and figures before the assessors in a series of conferences.

The tax rate set in the ordinance, as it is now introduced and as it will come up for further discussion tomorrow night, would yield, excluding the three-cent rate devoted to the payment of principal and interest (Continued on Last Page)

### Fiesta Is Chock-Full of Pep

### Big Show Is Set For Full Speed Ahead and No Brakes

The big Fiesta is ready to go! Next Tuesday the American Legion's huge show lot at Western and Border avenues will be teeming with colorful displays, carefully selected entertainment and riotous fun.

The mammoth canvas is scheduled to rise today or tomorrow, and with the "big top" hoisted into place—it's twice the size it has ever been before—the Fiesta grounds will begin to take on the aspect of a circus and exposition combined, the small boy's paradise and the grown-up's delight.

The automobile show, with its resplendent new cars, all fitted with the latest doodads and gadgets, will be the chief but by no means the only attraction under the big tent.

Many displays are arranged, in addition to the big auto show, including a miniature model home and numerous other interesting and educational exhibits.

Interest for the entertainment seekers will loom large at the big stage in the end of the main tent. Here two acts of vaudeville, booked direct from leading theatre circuits, will be given each night—ten big acts in all. The Fiesta managers have arranged (Continued on Page 7)